

**Memorandum of the Meeting
Regular Study Session/Meeting
Twenty-Sixth Town Council of Highland
Monday, May 24, 2010**

The regular study session of the Twenty-Sixth Town Council of the Town of Highland was convened at the regular place, the Highland Municipal, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana, in the plenary meeting chambers on **Monday, May 24, 2010** at the regular time of 7:12 o'clock p.m.

Silent Roll Call: Councilors Bernie Zemen, Konnie Kuiper and Mark A. Herak were present. Councilor Brian Novak arrived at 7:16 p.m. A quorum was attained. Councilor Dan Vassar was absent owing to a work travel commitment. The Clerk-Treasurer Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings.

Staff present: Cecile Petro, Redevelopment Director; and John M. Bach, Public Works Director, was also present.

Others present Staff: Randy Palmateer, NWI Building Trades Council; Melissa L. Binetti, Esq. of the Foundation for Fair Contracting (FFC); Myron Sutton, investigator for FFC; and Robin Carlascio, Editor of the Municipal Newsletter were also present.

Also attending: George Georgeff, Pat Vassar, Swisher, and retirees Thomas Kerr, Ken Balon and Robert Brakely all of the Metropolitan Police Department.

General Substance of Matters Discussed

1. The Town Council and the Clerk-Treasurer discussed with the Redevelopment Director a pending abatements request and the recommendation of the Economic Development Commission which met in meeting this morning at 7:30 a.m.

The Town Council discussed with the Redevelopment Director some suggestions made by the Economic Development Commission regarding changes in the fee for abatement and some local hiring requirements, Economic Development Fund, \$4,000 up front plus the filing fee of \$250.

2. The Town Council and the Public Works Director discussed the results of the request for bids for demolition services for the houses located on 3315 and 3309 Ridge Road, Highland. The discussion included whether or not the bids should be rejected and use in house staff. The bids were for removal and reseeding of the site. It was noted that the second house has some debris and some "old figurines" that have some slight value but not enough to reach a \$1,000 in a single value or \$5,000 in the aggregate.
3. The Town Council, Ms. Binetti engaged in questions regarding the enrolled revised draft ordinance for Public Works and the revisions sought by the Foundation For Fair Contracting. There was an informal discussion regarding the provisions provided by FFC as well as some existing language in the ordinance. The ordinance would be revised according to discussions today and then revisited on next study session of June 7, 2010.
4. The Town Council discussed with George Georgeff, Pat Vassar, Erich Swisher, F.O.P. President., and retirees Thomas Kerr, Ken Balon and Robert Brakely all of the Metropolitan Police Department, who were presenting an F.O.P. proposal to create a new master Patrol Officer position. (Submitted in writing.) It was represented as being fully funded. The Fiscal officer reminded that under the current operating tax freeze, the current budget is estimated at an approximate \$350,000 deficit.

5. With leave from the Town Council, Ms. Lydia Shotts, 10226 Kennedy Avenue, Highland inquired about some drainage issues ensuing from the neighbor. The Town Council President indicated that he would direct the Sanitary Board President, Rex Burton, to follow-up.
6. The Town Council briefly discussed the issue of modifying the fees ordinance for accident reports to reduce the on-line amount from \$25 to \$8 based upon what the state on-line provider is able to do under the terms of its general agreement with the Indiana State Police.
7. The Town Council discussed again the alternative of providing a license to encroach on the subject easement rather than granting a vacation of the easement as requested by Alfred Kosior, whose petition and hearing was conducted at the Town Council meeting of May 17, 2010. The ordinance was considered on the same night of introduction, but only sustained a vote of three in favor rather than the four in favor needed for passage on the same night of introduction. It may be placed on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting and only three votes would be necessary for adoption,
8. The Town Council suggested that the Clerk-Treasurer contact the proper officer at the Town of Griffith and provide several Thursday night dates for its council's consideration in which to schedule a joint session for discussing mutual economies and cooperation.

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the regular study session of the Town Council, of **Monday, May 24, 2010**, was adjourned 9:10 o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA
Clerk-Treasurer